

## **JOY: The third Sunday of Advent – December 13, 2020**

*Light two purple candles and one pink candle today*

### **ADVENT LITANY**

*Leader: Why light a candle that will burn out?*

**People: The message of this candle cannot be quenched. It speaks of joy: joy deep as the human soul; joy profound as the truth of salvation; joy rich as the promises of God.**

*Leader: It represents the advent joy of the heavenly host, heralding the newborn King, the Messiah.*

**People: We light this candle in faith.**

### **LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY**

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord, the Light of the World.**

**Suggested Hymn:** Of the Father's Love Begotten (#309 in The Presbyterian Hymnal)

**The Gospel reading for December 13, 2020:**

#### **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

#### **Prayer for the Third Sunday in Advent:**

Eternal God, before whose power we bow in awe, we thank you for the majesty and grandeur of your creation. But even more, and above all, we thank you for the revelation of your glory and grace in Jesus Christ. In him you kindled the hope for a new life in a new world. Let that hope be reborn in us today. Amen.